

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00718 061834Z

46

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 NIC-01 NEA-10 EB-06 /115 W

----- 009275

P R 051200Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4142

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0718

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS :MARR,PFRO/SF,UK,US

SUBJ :SA DEFENSE MINISTER EMPHASIZES STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE
OF SIMONSTOWN WHICH PRESS LINKS WITH ADMIRAL JOHNSON'S
VISIT TO US

REF :LUSAKA 2289, CAPE TOWN 705, 706 AND 682

1. IN SOUTH AFRICA,THEME THAT CAPE SEA ROUTE IS OF VITAL
IMPORTANCE TO WEST, THAT US SHOULD FILL BREACH IF BRITISH
ABROGATE SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT, AND THAT US-SOUTH AFRICAN
NAVAL COOPERATION IS POSSIBLE CONTINUES TO BE PLAYED PROMINENTLY.

2. IN SPEECH AT CAPE NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS NOV 5, MINDEFENSE
P.W.BOTHA SAID HE HAD 'NO OFFICIAL KNOWLEDGE OF ANY CHANGES'
IN SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT. HE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF CAPE
SEA ROUTE,WHICH HE SAID 'REMAINS A ROUTE OF GOOD HOPE FOR
THE FREE WORLD.' SOUTH AFRICA, BOTHA SAID, WOULD BE PREPARED TO
ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER NATIONS ON THE USE OF SIMONSTOWN
BASE IF IT WAS IN SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERESTS TO DO SO.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00718 061834Z

3. IN REPORTING BOTHA'S SPEECH, CAPE TIMES SAID IT CAME ONE

DAY 'AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S NAVAL CHIEF, VICE ADMIRAL JAMES JOHNSON, IS VISITING THE UNITED STATES AS A GUEST.'

4. NON-PARTISAN BELIEF IN SOUTH AFRICA THAT WEST REGARDS CAPE SEA ROUTE AS STRATEGICALLY VITAL AND THAT US OR FRANCE WOULD ASSUME BRITISH ROLE IF BRITISH OPTED OUT OF SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN CLEARLY ILLUSTRATED BY RECURRING REPORTS TO THIS EFFECT IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS. TODAY'S EDITORIAL IN CAPE TIMES, WHICH USUALLY STRONGLY OPPOSES MOST ASPECTS OF VORSTER GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES, IS CASE IN POINT. TIMES SAYS:'IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED IN INFLUENTIAL WESTERN CIRCLES THAT BRITAIN WILL BE MAKING A STRATEGIC ERROR IF SHE SCRAPS THE SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT. WE SHARE THIS VIEW. THE AMERICANS AND FRENCH FEEL SO STRONGLY ABOUT INDIAN OCEAN SECURITY THAT THEY WILL POSSIBLY FILL THE BREACH, TO SOME DEGREE, IF BRITAIN WITHDRAWS.... THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE CAPE ROUTE, AND THE COUNTRIES IN THIS AREA, WOULD BE EXPOSED TO INCREASED SOVIET INFLUENCE, UNLESS OTHER WESTERN NATIONS STEP IN.'

5. IN A LINE WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY SOUTH AFRICAN INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, TIMES STATES: 'A COUNTRY SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES, WITH A DOMINANT WORLD ROLE TO PLAY AND A GROWING RELIANCE ON PERSIAN GULF OIL IMPORTS, HAS FAR MORE REASON TO LISTEN TO PRETORIA'S ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE SECURITY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE OIL LIFELINE. SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD CONTINUE PUTTING THE CASE WITH REASON AND CLARITY.'

6. TIMES GOES ON TO SAY,'INSTEAD OF SPENDING TIME DELIVERING COLONIAL-ERA LECTURES TO BRITAIN ON HOW SHE COULD BE GREAT ONCE AGAIN, SOUTH AFRICANS SHOULD WORK NIGHT AND DAY AT THE AMERICAN CONNECTION--AND VICE ADMIRAL JOHNSON CAN BE WISHED WELL ON HIS COMING VISIT TO THAT COUNTRY.'

EDMONDSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, MILITARY VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAPET00718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740318-1076
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741171/aaaaciiy.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USAKA 2289, CAPE TOWN 705, 706 AND 6, 82
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by chicheje>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: :SA DEFENSE MINISTER EMPHASIZES STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF SIMONSTOWN WHICH PRESS LINKS WITH ADMIRAL JOHNSON'S
TAGS: MARR, SF, UK, US, (JOHNSON, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005